Acquisition of 790 acres of HP Government land for establishment of Army Cantonment

†638. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Headquarters, Western Command of Army, Chandimandir has requested the Government of Himachal Pradesh to hand over 790 acres of identified land at Una in order to develop infrastructure for establishment of a cantonment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Himachal Pradesh Government had indicated its willingness to offer land in Una to the Army in two pockets separated by a strip of land. The Army Authorities while accepting the offer in principle, for locating their units and establishments, requested the State Government to offer land in one pocket, keeping in view the security considerations. The State Government has, therefore, been requested to confirm the availability of land in one pocket as well as to bear the cost of infrastructural development.

Loss of standing crops due to movement of troops

639. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey regarding loss of standing crops along the Pakistan border, due to movement of troops;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner the farmers are likely to be compensated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The local Army authorities have been instructed to carry out survey along with local Revenue Authorities to assess the loss of standing crop due to mobilisation of troops in border ageas. The Governments of Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir have also been requested to issue necessary instructions to local Revenue Authorities to cooperate with local Army authorities. The farmers will be compensated on the basis of assessed loss to their crops.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.